

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 25, 28, 38, and 44 have been amended. Claims 1-34, 36-39, and 44 are pending in the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

The allowance of claims 1-34 and 36-39 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 25, 28, and 38 have been amended to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors and are accordingly in condition for allowance.

Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Holberg et al. (US 6,720,999). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 44 recites an imaging system comprising, *inter alia*, “an analog to digital (A/D) converter circuit that ... converts ... analog signals to digital signals with a variable-bit level of quantization, said A/D converter circuit comprising: a linear A/D converter for producing intermediate values ..., said linear A/D converter comprising a ramp generator, and a processing circuit that remaps value said intermediate values ... using a mapping table” (emphasis added). Holberg et al. does not disclose these limitations.

To the contrary, Holberg et al. discloses that “the ADC 46 is a 10-bit pipelined ADC which includes nine ADC stages respectively 61-69.” Col. 8, ln. 26-28. Applicant respectfully submits that Holberg does not disclose, teach, or suggest a linear A/D converter comprising a ramp generator as recited in claim 44. Since Holberg et al. does not disclose all the limitations of claim 44, claim 44 is not anticipated by Holberg et al. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 44 be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: August ⁸~~10~~, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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